

Report of the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel

To the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner

20 October 2021

WEST MIDLANDS POLICE AND CRIME PLAN 2021-2025

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In accordance with section 28 (3) of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 the Panel must review the draft West Midlands Police and Crime Plan (the Plan) and make a report to the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). The PCC must consider the Panel's report prior to publication of the Plan and respond to the Panel's report.
- 1.2 On 18 October 2021 the Panel considered the draft Plan for 2021-2025. Examination of the Plan provide an opportunity discuss a number of key issues including supporting victims of hate crime and encouraging reporting; recruitment of BME officers and career progression; suicide prevention and reducing the trauma of contact with criminal justice system; the allocation of community police officers; and the 101-phone line.
- 1.3 Panel members undertook to forward specific questions relating to targets within the Plan directly to the PCC for a detailed response.
- 1.4 Below are several areas which the Panel would like the PCC to consider when finalising and delivering the Plan.

2 Members Present

- 2.1 Bradley, Cllr Daniel Gibbin, Cllr Jasbir Jaspal, Cllr Richard Jones, Cllr Saima Suleman, Cllr Waheed Rasab and Lionel Walker.

3. Panel Comments

- 3.1 The Panel is satisfied that the Plan is reflective of the current priorities across the West Midlands and that it will support and develop the work undertaken by West Midlands Police and collaboration with partner organisations to reduce crime, improve community safety and the criminal justice system. We were pleased to hear about the wide-ranging consultation you undertook to inform the Plan.
- 3.2 The Panel welcomes the focus of the Plan on improving public confidence in the police, in particular the rebuilding of community policing and the implementation of the Fairness and Belonging programme. Many of the themes in your Plan concur with the conclusions of our *Public Confidence in Policing* inquiry (to be published shortly). The Panel is committed to work with you to address concerns we share about public accessibility and capacity of the 101 service.

- 3.3 We welcome the metrics contained throughout the Plan that will enable progress towards the delivery of priorities and impact to be assessed. We would suggest you consider also including baselines alongside terms such as 'increasing', 'reducing', 'historically' to inform the public of the starting points. We note targets must be carefully considered so not have unintended consequences.
- 3.4 In reviewing the draft Plan, we note a document of this detail may not be accessible to all. We recommend you also publish a summary version of your plan in an accessible quick-read format. We suggest setting out your objectives into short-term, medium-term, and long-term would offer a simplified overview to the public.
- 3.5 The Plan is ambitious, and we want you to be successful. We welcome your commitment to quarterly monitoring of progress by your Strategic Policing and Crime Board. The Panel would like to receive copies of these regular reports to inform the Panel on progress, outcomes and impact against your priorities.

4. Next Steps

- 4.1 The Panel looks forward to your response to this report and receipt of the final version of the Police and Crime Plan.
- 4.2 The Panel will publish this report, together with your response, on its website - www.westmidlandspcp.co.uk

Councillor Suky Samra
Chair, West Midlands Police and Crime Panel

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Our reference: 2021-01212

Sent by email to:
Sarah.Fradgley@birmingham.gov.uk

Date: 01 November 2021

Dear Police and Crime Panel Members

Thank you for your letter dated 21 October 2021 and for your Report of the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel dated 20 October 2021 ("the Report"), in response to my draft Police and Crime Plan 2021-25 ("the Plan").

I am grateful for the contributions provided by all members at the Police and Crime Panel on 18 October 2021 and for the Report dated 20 October 2021.

In accordance with Section 5(6)(d) of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, I have had regard to the Report. My response to the Report is set out below:

1. Publish a summary of the Plan

We will publish a summary of the Plan.

2. Regular reports to Panel on progress

We will provide quarterly reports to inform the Panel on the progress, outcomes and impact relating to the priorities set out in the Plan.

3. Inclusion of baseline metrics

We draw to your attention that baseline information will be included in the quarterly public performance reports submitted to my Strategic Policing and Crime Board.

I repeat that I am grateful for the individual contributions of all Panel members and for the Panel's Report. I look forward to working with all Panel members and the Panel for the benefit of the people and communities of the West Midlands.

I believe that the plan is a comprehensive agenda for change, development and progress in policing, rebuilding community policing, putting prevention at the heart of what we do and ultimately delivering justice, safety and security for all of our people and communities of the West Midlands.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Simon Foster". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Simon Foster
West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner